

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GEORGETTE T. DEEMER  
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

January 16, 2020

The Honorable Ikaika Anderson  
Chair and Presiding Officer  
and Members  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Anderson and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Report on Status of Sister Cities of the City and County of Honolulu

In accordance with Council Resolution 91-240, Establishing Guidelines for the City and County of Honolulu for the Establishment of Sister City Relationships, stating the Office of the Mayor "...shall submit an annual report to the Council by December 31 of each year which summarizes activities conducted with Honolulu sister cities and identifies the sister cities for which no activity has occurred within five years..." as a way to determine which relationships should result in an "...automatic termination of Honolulu sisterhood affiliation...", the attached report is submitted for your consideration.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 768-6638, or email at [edwin.hawkins@honolulu.gov](mailto:edwin.hawkins@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin P. Hawkins, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Edwin P. Hawkins, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Mayor's Office of Economic Development

Attachment

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy K. Amemiya, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Roy K. Amemiya, Jr.  
Managing Director

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE 3**

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## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL ON HONOLULU'S SISTER CITIES

### INTRODUCTION

This 2019 Annual Report is being submitted to the Honolulu City Council by the Office of Economic Development (OED), following the provisions of Council Resolution 91-240 which mandates that "such protocol officer ... submit an annual report to the Council by December 31 of each year which summarizes the activities conducted with Honolulu's sister cities and identifies the sister cities for which no activity has occurred within five years, thereby resulting in an automatic termination of Honolulu's sisterhood ....".

### LIST OF HONOLULU'S SISTER CITIES

<u>SISTER CITY</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>RESOLUTION</u>	<u>DATE OF RESOLUTION</u>
1. Hiroshima	Japan (1)	59-349	May 19, 1959
2. Naha, Okinawa	Japan (2)	60-69	March 18, 1960
3. Bruyeres	France	60-342	November 1, 1960
4. Kaohsiung	Taiwan	62-330	September 4, 1962
5. Laoag	Philippines (1)	69-274	July 15, 1969
6. Mumbai (Bombay)	India	70-31	January 20, 1970
7. Seoul	Korea (1)	73-102	May 20, 1973
8. Funchal, Madeira	Portugal (1)	79-216	September 19, 1979
9. Manila	Philippines (2)	80-49	March 19, 1980
10. Tokyo*	Japan	82-270	December 8, 1982
11. Haikou	China (1)	85-66	February 27, 1985
12. Sintra	Portugal (2)	98-205	August 5, 1985
13. San Juan	Puerto Rico	85-373	November 20, 1985
14. Cebu	Philippines (3)	90-01	November 14, 1990
15. Baguio	Philippines (4)	95-349	November 3, 1995
16. Hue	Vietnam	95-350	November 3, 1995
17. Zhongshan	China (2)	97-179	June 18, 1997
18. Baku	Azerbaijan	98-206	August 5, 1998
19. Caracas	Venezuela	99-10	January 27, 1999
20. Mombasa	Kenya	00-148	August 9, 2000
21. Vigan	Philippines (5)	03-050	March 19, 2003
22. Incheon	Korea (2)	03-210	October 15, 2003
23. Uwajima	Japan (3)	04-036	Feb. 18, 2004
24. Mandaluyong	Philippines (6)	05-268	September 28, 2005
25. Rabat	Morocco	06-229	March 9, 2007
26. Majuro Atoll	Marshall Islands	09-282	Dec. 16, 2009
27. Qinhuangdao	China (3)	10-90 FD1	May 12, 2010
28. Chengdu	China (4)	11-72 CD1	April 20, 2011

29. Nagaoka	Japan (4)	12-09 CD1	January 5, 2012
30. Fengxian, Shanghasi	China (5)	12-125 CD1	July 11, 2012
31. Zhangzhou	China (6)	12-236	October 3, 2012
32. Cali	Columbia	12-311	December 5, 2012
33. Chigasaki	Japan (5)	14-178	August 13, 2014
34. Candon	Philippines (7)	15-42	March 11, 2015
35. Sakaimachi **	Japan (6)	18-274	November 26, 2018
36. Havana ***	Cuba	19-25	May 8, 2019
37. Fukuoka ***	Japan (7)	19-149	August 7, 2019

\* (refused by then-Tokyo Governor Ishikawa; since then, continued to decline invitation)

\*\* New sister City in 2018, pending formal signing

\*\*\* New Sister City in 2019, pending formal signing

## RECENT ACTIVITIES BETWEEN HONOLULU AND EACH SISTER CITY IN 2019

### 1. BAGUIO, PHILIPPINES (established November 1995)

Although in 2019 no activity has taken place between Honolulu and Baguio, OED expects that there will be renewed efforts from both cities to strengthen this relationship. Plans are being drawn up to hold a signing ceremony of the Renewal of Sister City ties as one of the highlights of the “Kapatid Exchange – Hawaii-Philippines Sister States, Provinces and Cities Expo and Summit” scheduled for July 24-26, 2020 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Mayor Kirk Caldwell has recently sent out Letters of Invitation to the Mayors of Honolulu’s seven sister cities in the Philippines. The Mayor and the Council Chairman of Baguio City are expected to come and visit Honolulu for this upcoming event.

### 2. BAKU, AZERBAIJAN (established August 1998)

This city is on the list of inactive sister cities of Honolulu that was submitted to the Honolulu City Council in last year’s Annual Report. OED has communicated to the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, California regarding Honolulu’s intention to sever sister city ties with Baku. The Consulate offered to relay the information to the city government of Baku City and would inform OED of Baku’s reaction and response. Our office is still awaiting Baku’s response. OED’s recommendation is to proceed to terminate the relationship as no response has been received in 2019.

### 3. BRUYERES, FRANCE (established November 1960)

On April 23, 2019, Mayor Yves Bonjean of Bruyeres, France and his daughter Anne Bonjean visited Honolulu and paid a courtesy call on Mayor Kirk Caldwell in his office at Honolulu Hale. Mayor Caldwell hosted a private dinner for Mayor Bonjean and his daughter in a restaurant in Waikiki. Mayor Bonjean extended an invitation to Mayor Caldwell to visit Bruyeres during the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres from Nazi occupation in mid-October 2019.

See below for the link of the visit of Mayor Yves Bonjean:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/34900-4-22-2019-visit-of-bruyeres-mayor-yves-bonjean.html>

On October 15, Mayor Kirk Caldwell and Edwin Hawkins, Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development, visited Bruyeres and attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the liberation by the 100/442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team of the American Infantry. The anniversary celebration in Bruyeres was also attended by U.S. Representative Ed Case of Hawaii and Guillaume Maman, the Honorary Consul General of France in Hawaii. See below for a link to a video of the visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XunaH3MR7bQ>

#### **4. CALI, COLUMBIA (established December 2012)**

This is one of the inactive cities that OED recommended for termination. OED sent a letter to the Mayor of Cali, informing him of our intentions. The Mayor's representative responded that the current Mayor of Cali, whose term of office will end at the end of this year, intends to recommend to the next Mayor to sign an agreement for the renewal of sister city relationship with Honolulu.

OED believes this relationship cannot prosper because there is no group in Honolulu that is interested to advocate for this relationship. Hence OED's recommendation stands the same: terminate the relationship.

#### **5. CANDON, PHILIPPINES (established March 2015)**

Like the mayors of the other sister cities in the Philippines, the Mayor of Candon City has been invited by Mayor Caldwell to come to Honolulu to participate in the Signing Ceremony of the Renewal of Sister City Relationship during the "Kapatid Exchange – Hawaii-Philippines Sister States, Provinces and Cities Expo and Summit", scheduled for July 24-26, 2020.

#### **6. CARACAS, VENEZUELA (established January 1999)**

OED's recommendation is to proceed with the termination of the sister city relationship with Caracas, Venezuela. Mayor Antonio Ledezma of Caracas was imprisoned and is now in exile outside the county upon orders of the national government. OED does not have any information who is performing the duties of the Mayor. Furthermore, there is no individual nor group in Honolulu who could be the advocate for this relationship.

#### **7. CEBU, PHILIPPINES (established November 1990)**

Ongoing exchanges and interactions between the peoples of Honolulu and Cebu City continue throughout the year. Regularly, members of the Cebuano Association of Hawaii and Honolulu businessmen visit Cebu City for vacation and/or business dealings and vice-versa. Recently,

Hubert Minn, one of Honolulu's sister cities liaisons, visited Cebu City from September 19-23, 2019 to conduct a free workshop for Cebu's boxing ring officials. This month, the former Mayor of Cebu City, Mayor Alvin Garcia, and his wife visited Honolulu and met with the members of the Cebuano Association.

Mayor Edgardo Labella, the current Mayor of Cebu City, and Vice-Mayor Michael Rama, the presiding officer of the Cebu City Council are planning to visit Honolulu in July 24-26, 2020 to attend the "Kapatid Exchange"-Hawaii-Philippines Sister States, Provinces and Cities Expo and Summit.

#### **8. CHENGDU, CHINA (established April 2011)**

The sister city relationship between Honolulu and Chengdu is kept alive with the assistance of Mr. Jeffrey Lau, a local attorney and one of Honolulu's sister city liaisons through ongoing business, educational, and cultural exchanges between the two cities. These relationships have seen significant activity in the last several years, including the visit of Mr. Lau who accompanied Hawaiian groups to Chengdu's Youth Music Festival and most recently a visit by Kalani High School students to participate in a Chinese language competition funded by the Chengdu government. These opportunities for youth and students in Hawaii are made possible by our close sister city relations with Chengdu, especially between OED and Chengdu's International Affairs Office. See below for the link of the article regarding the Kalani High School trip:

<https://www.kaleookalani.org/3633/features/kalani-travels-to-chengdu-for-debate-challenge/>

#### **9. CHIGASAKI, JAPAN (established April 2014)**

One of the few sister cities that have maintained the closest and most vibrant relationships with Honolulu is the City of Chigasaki. Every year, a citizens delegation from Chigasaki visit Honolulu during the Christmas season. This year on December 16, 2019 the Chigasaki Citizens tour, comprising of seventy-one people, visited Honolulu for a few days to show support to the friendly relations between the two cities. Earlier, on March 7, 2019, Mayor Hikaru Sato visited Honolulu and paid a courtesy call on Mayor Caldwell. Mayor Sato was elected Mayor on November 18, 2018 when Mayor Nobuaki Hattori suddenly died and elections were immediately held. To coordinate and assist in activities involving Honolulu and Chigasaki, Ms. Rika Hirata of First Hawaiian Bank has been appointed by the City of Chigasaki as its "ambassador" and liaison between the two cities. See below for the link of the visit of Mayor Sato's to Honolulu Hale:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/34327-3-7-2019-chigasaki-mayor-hikaru-sato-visits-honolulu-hale.html>

On November 6-8, 2019, Managing Director Roy Amemiya visited Chigasaki at the invitation of its Mayor Sato to further sister city ties and mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister city relationship. This was Managing Director Amemiya's first visit to Chigasaki since the signing of the sister city relations. The visit included meetings with two vice mayors, city council leadership, cabinet members, and business leaders. Managing Director Amemiya brought back several perspectives he learned from his

visit including the recognition that Chigasaki's citizens seemed very fit due, it seems, to a heavy emphasis on walking and cycling as alternate means of transportation and every business seemed to stress quality in both products and service. Mayor Sato and Managing Director Amemiya discussed additional areas of cooperation including educational exchanges and furthering business ties. Chigasaki has sent three educators to Honolulu for the last three years as observers in school classrooms and as lesson presenters. Mayor Sato would like to expand this program. On the business side, Chigasaki has a sister relationship with the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Sato would like to expand the ties between the respective chambers of commerce. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/37386-11-6-2019-md-roy-amemiya-visits-chigasaki-to-mark-the-5th-anniversary-of-sister-city-relationship.html>

#### **10. FENGXIAN, SHANGHAI, CHINA (established July 2012)**

Fengxian continues to express interest in concluding a sister city relationship through the signing of a formal document. In 2019, OED contacted Fengxian City Government office to visit en-route to another event in China; arrangements were made but last minute changes made this meeting not possible. OED will attempt to reconnect in 2020.

#### **11. FUKUOKA, JAPAN (established August 2019)**

Recently established; awaiting Mayors' decision on executing sister city agreement. Mr. Ryozo Ariyoshi, local advocate for this relationship has been appointed as unofficial Mayor's representative for pursuing Fukuoka-Honolulu relationship. According to Mr. Ariyoshi, the Fukuoka Government is not yet ready to formally conclude this agreement; awaiting update on the desires of Fukuoka Government.

#### **12. FUNCHAL, MADEIRA, PORTUGAL (established September 1979)**

Although no activity or exchanges have been reported in this relationship, OED expects that this relationship may be revived after Mr. Tyler Dos Santos-Tam was named this year as the Honorary Consul of Portugal in Hawaii. Mr. Tam has expressed his interest and plans to reinvigorate and strengthen this relationship. OED recommends a decision on the future of these relationships be decided after seeing how this develops in 2020.

#### **13. HAIKOU, CHINA (established February 1985)**

Interactions and mutual exchanges between Honolulu and Haikou have been encouraged, initiated, and fostered by Mr. Leigh-Wai Doo, former member of the Honolulu City Council, and liaison of the sister city relations between Honolulu and Haikou. Recent outreach by the new Deputy Mayor of Haikou may offer some promise to reinvigorate this relationship. Awaiting word from the new Deputy Mayor.

#### **14. HAVANA, CUBA (established May 2019)**

Recently established; awaiting Mayors' decision on executing sister city agreement. Also, awaiting feedback from local advocate on how to proceed on the structure of a future relationship and concluding a sister city document.

#### **15. HIROSHIMA, JAPAN (established May 1959)**

This relationship remains quite active due to positive initiatives from both sides.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui visited Honolulu to attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors from June 27-29, 2019 as a guest of Mayor Kirk Caldwell. While in Honolulu, Mayor Matsui also attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Honolulu-Hiroshima Sister City Relationship held on July 2, 2019.

Three events were held to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: the signing ceremony of the Reaffirmation of Friendship in the City Council chambers, the Ceremonial Tree Planting in Foster Botanical Garden, and the Dinner Reception on the grounds of the Consulate General of Japan. Included in Mayor Matsui's delegation were City Council Chairman Haruo Yamada, City Councilmember Masakatsu Miyasaki, nine City officials, and a twelve-member Junior Marimba Ensemble. See below for the links to photos of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/35697-07-02-2019-hiroshima-mayor-kazumi-matsui-visits-honolulu-for-60th-anniversary-celebration.html>

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/35703-07-02-2019-hiroshima-mayor-kazumi-matsui-visits-with-mayor-kirk-caldwell.html>

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/35700-7-2-2019-honolulu-mayor-kirk-caldwell-and-hiroshima-mayor-kazumi-matsui-sign-reaffirmation-of-friendship.html>

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/35705-07-02-2019-ceremonial-tree-planting-marks-60th-anniversary-of-honolulu-hiroshima-sister-city-relations.html>

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/35821-07-02-2019-dinner-reception-celebrates-60th-anniversary-of-honolulu-hiroshima-sister-city-relations.html>

On July 29, 2019, a group of six YMCA youths and an adult leader from Hiroshima visited Honolulu's Mayor Kirk Caldwell. Building on the foundation of friendship established between the two cities, the YMCA of Honolulu and its international sister, the Hiroshima YMCA, began in 1961 the "Let's Get Together" student exchange program, whereby students from the two cities would visit and stay in each other's cities for a few weeks to create enriching cultural experiences, forge lasting friendships, and instill lifetime memories.

See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/35831-07-29-2019-hiroshima-ymca-delegates-visit-honolulu-hale.html>

On November 4-6, 2019, Managing Director Amemiya visited Hiroshima at the invitation of Mayor Matsui to attend their annual "Honolulu Day", coinciding with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister city relationship with Honolulu. This annual event is a Hawaiian themed program for residents to enjoy hula and music. In addition to the evening program, which had 350 people in attendance, Hawaiian musician Jeff Au Hoy, who accompanied Managing Director Amemiya, performed at City Hall during the lunch hour. The audience really enjoyed his singing and ukulele and steel guitar performance. Managing Director, accompanied by his wife, also engaged in other activities including offering flowers at the Atomic Bomb Cenotaph Memorial, visiting the renovated Peace Memorial Museum, touring the Hiroshima Municipal Botanical Garden, and the Mazda Museum and assembly plant to witness high-tech industrial techniques. During his visit to the Botanical Garden, Managing Director Amemiya learned of Director Tetsuya Sera's desire to expand its tropical section by including native Hawaiian plants. Upon his return, Managing Director Amemiya asked the Director of Honolulu's botanical gardens, Joshlyn Sand, to look into supporting this request. Hiroshima also asked Honolulu to look into donating a komodo dragon from the Honolulu Zoo. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/37385-11-4-2019-md-roy-amemiya-visits-hiroshima-during-its-annual-honolulu-day.html>

On November 13, 2019, Mr. Takuo Takigawa, the Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, together with Ms. Kahori Wada of the Outreach Division of the Museum, visited Honolulu Hale and was received by OED Executive Director Edwin Hawkins, on behalf of Mayor Kirk Caldwell. The purpose of the visit was to meet with Honolulu officials and the members of the Honolulu-Hiroshima Kenjin Kai regarding the plan of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum to hold a worldwide Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition here in Honolulu sometime in 2020. To this end, some fourteen officers and members of the Honolulu-Hiroshima Kenjin Kai, led by its President Wayne Miyao, attended the meeting and met with Director Takigawa. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/36979-11-13-2019-hiroshimal-peace-memorial-museum-director-visits-honolulu-hale.html>

Upon the invitation of Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, Mayor Kirk Caldwell and OED Executive Director Edwin Hawkins visited Hiroshima on November 21-24, 2019 to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sister city relationship between Honolulu and Hiroshima. While there they also attended, as special guests of Mayor Matsui, the memorial service at the Peace Park with His Holiness, Pope Francis.

Plans are underway between Hiroshima and Honolulu on how the two cities should collaborate on the upcoming ceremonies surrounding the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the end of WWII.



## **16. HUE, VIETNAM (established November 1995)**

Mayor Kirk Caldwell was invited by Mr. Nguyen Van Thanh, Chairman of the Hue City People's Committee, to attend the Hue Traditional Craft Festival 2019 to be held in Hue City from April 26 to May 2, 2019. Unfortunately, because of the demands of his office, Mayor Caldwell was not able to honor the invitation. OED contacted Ms. Thanh Lo Sananikone, the Chairperson of the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce and also the liaison of the Honolulu-Hue sister city relationship, requesting her to organize a Honolulu delegation to participate in the Hue Craft Festival. Due to other pressing matters, Ms. Sanannikone was unsuccessful in organizing a group. OED was, however, informed that individual Honolulu residents, who originally came from Hue, are regularly traveling between Honolulu and Hue throughout the year. OED will await further developments before making additional recommendations.

## **17. INCHEON, KOREA (established October 2003)**

On February 15, 2019, twenty-six high school students from Korea accompanied by two chaperones from Gachon University and two staff members of the Korean Broadcasting Service (KBS), visited Honolulu Hale and were received by Deputy Managing Director Georgette Deemer on behalf of Mayor Kirk Caldwell. These students from different high schools in Korea were the Winter 2018 winners of the "Hawaii Education Center Study Abroad Scholarship", organized by Gachon University under the KBS Golden Bell Challenge competition. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/34109-2-15-2019-gachon-students-from-korea-winter-2018-visit-honolulu-hale.html>

On April 2, 2019, a nine member delegation of council members of the Incheon Metropolitan City Council, led by Vice Chairman Byung Bae An, visited Honolulu Hale and was received by Mayor Kirk Caldwell. The visit was arranged by Mrs. So-Suk Ko, Mayor's Special Advisor for Incheon sister City. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/34622-4-2-2019-incheon-city-council-delegation-visits-honolulu-hale.html>

On April 10, 2019, Incheon Mayor Park Nam-chun , through his office of International Cooperation, expressed his desire to resume the "Dispatch Program" that was established between Honolulu and Incheon in 2008 during the term of then Mayor Mufi Hannemann, whereby city employees of both cities would be sent to each other's city to do a fellowship or internship for a period of six to twelve months. To resume the program, the city government of Incheon decided to send Mr. Kim Jin Yong, a former Commissioner of the Incheon Free Economic Zone authority, to do a fellowship/internship in the Honolulu City government. Mr. Kim reported to OED on September 3, 2019 and, upon prior arrangements, was assigned and detailed in the Office of the Transit-Oriented Development under Harrison Rue. Unfortunately, however, after three months in Honolulu Mr. Kim had to cut short his fellowship and had to return to Incheon on December 3, 2019 because of a serious illness of his

mother-in-law. OED was informed, however, that Incheon will be sending a replacement to Honolulu in the next few months.

#### **18. KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN (established September 1962)**

On January 11, 2019 the new Mayor of Kaohsiung, Mayor Daniel K.Y. Han sent a letter of invitation to Mayor Kirk Caldwell, inviting the latter to attend the Lunar New Year celebration in Kaohsiung on February 15-18, 2019. Due to conflict in schedule Mayor Caldwell had to decline the invitation. He, however, thanked Mayor Han in his response letter for hosting acting Director Kathy Sokugawa at the Global Harbor Cities Forum in Kaohsiung in September 2018.

Mayor Han has also invited Mayor Caldwell to attend the Kaohsiung Lantern Festival on February 7-10, 2020 to celebrate the Year of the Rat in the Chinese Zodiac. Mayor Caldwell could not attend this festival due to work commitments, but responded to Mayor Han. This relationship continues to be vibrant.

#### **19. LAOAG, PHILIPPINES (established July 1969)**

There is an on-going communication and discussion between the University of Hawaii Leeward Community College and the Mariano Marcos State University in Laoag City to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of cooperation and exchange. The Memorandum would cover a proposed student exchange program between the two institutions, whereby agriculture students from Mariano Marcos State University will undertake a one-month study in Honolulu and agriculture students from the University of Hawaii Leeward Community College will go to the Philippines for a one-month study in the Mariano Marcos State University.

We expect that the new Mayor of Laoag, Mayor Michael Marcos Keon, will be able to visit Honolulu during the “Kapatid Exchange” Expo and Summit in the Hawaii Convention Center on July 24-26, 2020. Mayor Caldwell has sent an invitation letter to Mayor Keon regarding this event.

#### **20. MAJURO ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS (established December 2009)**

No activity has been reported in 2019 regarding this relationship. However, a delegation led by the Mayor of Ebeye, Marshall Islands, Kwajalein Atoll, visited Honolulu in December 2017 and discussed mutual issues such as effects of sea level rise. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<http://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/29955-12-20-2017-ebeye-marshall-islands-mayor-visits-honolulu-hale.html>

#### **21. MANDALUYONG, PHILIPPINES (established September 2005)**

For 2019, no activity has been reported, although we expect that Mandaluyong Mayor Carmelita Aguilar Abalos will be visiting Honolulu to attend the “Kapatid Exchange” Expo and Summit on July 24-26, 2020.

## **22. MANILA, PHILIPPINES (established March 1980)**

On October 12-22, 2019, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii spearheaded the 29<sup>th</sup> Trade Mission to the Philippines, composed of Hawaii State officials and Honolulu businessmen, and visited Manila where the delegation attended the Manila F.A.M.E International Trade Show. The Trade Show is organized annually by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, the export promotions arm of the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry.

Mayor Caldwell has recently sent an invitation to the new Mayor of Manila, Mayor Francisco Domagoso, to visit Honolulu and attend the “Kapatid Exchange” Expo and Summit on July 24-26, 2020.

## **23. MOMBASA, KENYA (established August 2000)**

Dr. Gilbert Githere, the President and Director of the Honolulu-Mombasa Sister Cities organization, has proposed to OED for a formal signing of the Sister City Agreement between the two cities on October 15, 2020. This date will coincide with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the initial expression of friendship between the two cities, by virtue of the adoption of City Council Resolution 00-148 in August 2000.

In conjunction with this event, Mayor Caldwell sent a letter of invitation to Governor Hassan Joho of the Mombasa County government and his delegation to come to Honolulu. Likewise, Mayor Caldwell signed a letter of introduction for Dr. Githere to present to organizations and individuals for cooperation and assistance in his efforts to prepare for this event in Honolulu.

## **24. MUMBAI, INDIA (established as BOMBAY, INDIA in January 1970)**

Dr. Raj Kumar, Honolulu’s liaison with India, is working with the office of Mumbai Mayor Vishwanath Mahadeshwar for approval from the Parliament of Maharashtra of a Sister City agreement between Honolulu and Mumbai. According to Dr. Kumar, the city of Mumbai has already reached the maximum number of sister cities that Mumbai can establish with. If the Parliament of Maharashtra would approve the sister city agreement with Honolulu, it has to be submitted for approval by the Ministry of External Affairs of the government of India in New Delhi.

Dr. Kumar has indicated that if the sister city relationship between Honolulu and Mumbai cannot be formalized, he will advise creating another city in India, possibly a city in Goa or Madras (now, called Chennai). He will be in India in late December 2019 and will explore possibilities while there.

See below for a link of the visit of the Goa delegation:

<http://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/36591-10-7-2019-go-a-government-officials-visit-honolulu-hale.html>

## **25. NAGAOKA, JAPAN (established January 2012)**

On February 17, 2019, Mayor Kirk Caldwell and OED Executive Director Edwin Hawkins visited Nagaoka, upon the invitation of the Nagaoka International Exchange Association, to attend the Yukishika Matsuri events and to participate in the launching of the Yamanobu Textile and Iolani Sportswear collaborative "Aloha Shirt". These events were also attended by some exchange students from Kaimuki High School. During the event, the Manoa DNA's band from Honolulu performed for the audience.

On March 8, 2019 a delegation from the Nagaoka International Exchange Association visited Honolulu. This association provides funding support for international student exchanges between Nagaoka and Honolulu. Nagaoka also provides its famous fireworks for the Honolulu Festival since 2012. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/34338-3-8-2019-delegation-of-nagaoka-international-exchange-association-visits-honolulu-hale.html>.

Mayor Tatsunobu Isoda of Nagaoka attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Honolulu, upon the invitation of Mayor Caldwell, from June 28 to July 1, 2019.

Every year in the month of October, Mayor Caldwell gives the "Honolulu Mayor's Award" to the winner of the Nagaoka Children's Art Exhibition, whose winning entry is given recognition and is exhibited in the Niigata Prefectural Museum of History in Nagaoka. This Children's Art Exhibition is held every year to demonstrate the close relationship between Honolulu and Nagaoka.

## **26. NAHA, OKINAWA, JAPAN (established March 1960)**

On March 22, 2019, Governor Yasuhiro "Denny" Tamaki of Okinawa and his delegation visited with Mayor Kirk Caldwell at Honolulu Hale. Governor Tamaki has sought dialogue with the Japanese Central government and the U.S. government, including the U.S. military, on the future of the U.S. military presence in Okinawa. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/34481-3-22-2019-okinawa-governor-denny-tamaki-visits-honolulu-hale.html>

On March 1, 2019 Mayor Caldwell sent an invitation to Mayor Mikiko Shiroma of Naha to attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors on June 28 to July 1, 2019 in Honolulu.

Plans are now underway with the assistance of Hawaii United Okinawa Association to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sister city relationship with Naha in 2020. A delegation led by the Mayor of Naha is expected to attend Okinawan cultural events in May, 2020; Mayor Caldwell may make a return visit.

## **27. QINHUANGDAO, CHINA (established March 2010)**

No activity in 2019 has been reported regarding this relationship. However, recent contacts have been made with Ms. Dan Yuan, who used to work in the Office of Economic Development under then Mayor Peter Carlisle and who assisted in the establishment of the sister city relationship between Honolulu and Qinhuangdao. Ms. Yuan, who now resides in Budapest, Hungary and Vienna, Austria, commutes to Honolulu regularly because of her husband's business interests in Hawaii, expressed interest in helping OED reignite the sister city relationship between the two cities. She plans to communicate with Mr. Jeffrey Lau, a local attorney and an advocate for good relations between Honolulu and Chinese cities, regarding this moribund relationship.

## **28. RABAT, MOROCCO (established March 2007)**

There are current efforts to resurrect this moribund relationship. Ms. Miki Nitadori, an artist based in Paris, France, recently visited OED to express her interest in helping to renew and reinvigorate the sister city relationship between Honolulu and Rabat. She is a regular visitor to Rabat because of her work in the arts. At the moment, she is working on a new creation that she would present in the Casablanca Biennial in 2020 and is thinking of ways to give a value to the relationship between Honolulu and Rabat.

While in Honolulu, Ms. Nitadori had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Hakim Quansafi who originally came from Morocco and discussed Rabat's sister city relationship with Honolulu. Mr. Quansafi, who is the volunteer Chairman for the Muslim Association of Hawaii and is the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing authority, indicated his willingness to assist in reviving the sister city relationship between Honolulu and Rabat. In fact, he is willing to organize an event to celebrate the relationship between these two cities.

## **29. SAKAIMACHI, JAPAN (established November 2018)**

Recently established; awaiting Mayors' decision on executing sister city agreement.

On December 19, 2019, Mayor Masahiro Hashimoto led a delegation of Sakaimachi government officials in visiting Honolulu Hale and were received by Managing Director Roy Amemiya on behalf of Mayor Caldwell. The eleven man delegation also included Council Chairman Isao Kuramochi and two other council members. Managing Director Amemiya expressed the gratitude and deep appreciation of the government and people of the City and County of Honolulu for the large fireworks display that Sakaimachi and the Royal Cosmetics Company jointly sponsor in Waikiki in June each year during the "Sakaimachi Day". Managing Director Amemiya also thanked Mayor Hashimoto for his assistance in bringing almost 1,000 people from Sakaimachi to visit Honolulu every year. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<http://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/37297-12-19-2019-sakaimachi-mayor-and-delegation-visit-honolulu-hale.html>

### **30. SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO (established November 1985)**

No activity reported since communication in 2010. Letter of support following Hurricane Maria in September 2017 was unanswered. Recommendation: terminate relationship.

### **31. SEOUL, KOREA (established May 1973)**

The sister city relationship between Honolulu and Seoul is active and vibrant. Mutual exchanges between the two cities continue to prosper in the area of government-to-government relations, business and trade, education, and cultural activities.

On October 15, 2019 a delegation of the Seoul Metropolitan Council led by Chairman Shin Weon-chul visited Honolulu and was received by Managing Director Roy Amemiya in Honolulu Hale. The delegation visited Honolulu from October 12-16, 2019 as part of the exchange visit program between the city councils of Honolulu and Seoul whereby a Honolulu City Council delegation goes to Seoul and Incheon to visit and the two Korean City Councils do the same every few years. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/36855-10-15-2019-seoul-metropolitan-council-chairman-and-delegation-visit-honolulu-hale.html>

Mayor Kirk Caldwell received a letter of invitation from Seoul Mayor Won-soon Park to attend the Seoul Friendship Festival to be held in Seoul from August 31 to September 1, 2019. Unfortunately, due to a conflict of schedule, Mayor Caldwell could not honor the invitation but informed Mayor Park that Minnie Ko, Honolulu's sister city liaison with Seoul, will set up a Honolulu Booth during the Festival to promote State and City attractions.

Mayor Park also invited Mayor Caldwell to the International Cooperation Week on Peace and Sustainability on October 1-4, 2019. This event is designed to provide a series of forums where mayors and experts can exchange information and practices of urban diplomacy, as well as site visits to facilities which implement innovative technology practices of Seoul. Due to the demands of his office, Mayor Caldwell was not able to attend.

Upon the invitation of Mayor Park to the International Care Expo held in Seoul on November 18-19, 2019, Ms. Pamela Witty-Oakland, the Director of the Department of Community Services, was asked to attend the Expo as the representative of the City and County of Honolulu. This Expo is an event where government officials and private companies that provide care policies and services for citizens in the local community gather together to communicate with each other and exchange future visions of care policies.

### **32. SINTRA, PORTUGAL (established August 1985)**

No recent activity has been recorded relating to this sister city. OED is hopeful, though, that with the appointment of Mr. Tyler Dos Santos-Tam as the Honorary Consul of Portugal in Hawaii this relationship would be revived and reinvigorated.

### **33. TOKYO, JAPAN (established December 1982)**

Despite several on-going contacts with Tokyo, including attendance of Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike at the United States Conference of Mayors as our special guest, the Metropolitan Government Office has been consistently clear that it does not want to consummate the sister city agreement. The following are several initiatives on education and business that are on-going:

Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology: collaborating on possible cultivation of a superior rice in Hawaii; interested in academic collaboration with the University of Hawaii. Efforts continue.

All Nippon Airways (headquartered in Tokyo): continue assisting them for expanding passenger seat capacity on A380, and assisting future planning of Honolulu Music Week.

### **34. UWAJIMA, JAPAN (established February 2004)**

On November 4, 2019, a delegation of four students and two teachers from the Ehime Prefectural Uwajima Fisheries High School visited Honolulu Hale and was received by OED Executive Director Edwin Hawkins on behalf of Mayor Kirk Caldwell. The visit of the students is part of the continuing student exchange visit program between Honolulu and Uwajima. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/36930-11-4-2019-ehime-uwajima-fisheries-school-students-visit-honolulu-hale.html>

On November 14, 2019, a total of seventy-nine young students from Ehime Prefecture, which includes the City of Uwajima, and their families and school staff visited Honolulu Hale and were received by OED Executive Director Edwin Hawkins on behalf of Mayor Kirk Caldwell. The students were visiting to compete in the Ehime-Hawaii Goodwill Youth Baseball Tournament. See below for a link to an article of the visit:

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-oed-menu/site-oed-sitearticles/1170-may-oed-news/36980-11-14-2019-ehime-hawaii-youth-baseball-exchange-students-visit-honolulu-hale.html>

On May 6, 2019, OED met with officials of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to discuss a possible medical interns exchange between Honolulu and Uwajima. Firmo Dayao, representing OED, met with Dr. Gregory Maskarinec, Ph.D., the Director of JABSOM's Global Health and International Medicine, and Dr. Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, M.D., JABSOM's Designated Institutional Official. During the meeting, JABSOM indicated its willingness to develop an exchange program with Uwajima City Hospital and would be willing to accept students/faculty for a short-term training program.

Following this initial meeting, communications were established between Dr. Mascarinec of JABSOM and Dr. Akiyoshi Ogimoto, M.D., the Chief of the Division of Postgraduate Clinical Training of the Uwajima City Hospital. As a result of these communications, the two parties agreed to establish the HULA (Honolulu-Uwajima Medical Learning Alliance) for some medical interns from Uwajima City Hospital to attend a two week study program at JABSOM. After more discussions, they agreed that five 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical interns from Uwajima City Hospital will attend the HULA program from February 2 to February 16, 2020 in Honolulu.

### **35. VIGAN, PHILIPPINES**

No reported activity in 2019 between Honolulu and Vigan. OED expects, however, that Mayor Juan Carlo Medina of Vigan City will visit Honolulu to attend the “Kapatid Exchange” Expo and Summit on July 24-26, 2020. Mayor Caldwell has sent an invitation to Mayor Medina regarding this event.

### **36. ZHANGZHOU, CHINA (established October 2003)**

On October 21, 2019, Mr. Wen Chung Lin of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii sent an email to the Office of the Mayor, with a copy furnished to OED, that Madame Zhong Xiaojuan, Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office, will lead a three member government delegation, accompanied by three business managers, to visit Honolulu, New York, and Washington, D.C. sometime in December 2019. Unfortunately, the visit did not occur, being canceled at the last minute. According to communication that OED received on October 30, 2019, the visit is to be rescheduled in 2020.

### **37. ZHONGSHAN, CHINA (established June 1997)**

There was no reported activity involving Zhongshan in 2019 despite several communications exchanging greetings, and an invitation for the Mayor to attend a cultural event in Zhongshan. With the encouragement of local Zhongshan sister city advocate Mr. Leigh Wai-Doo, a letter was sent this month by OED Executive Director Edwin Hawkins to Mr. Huang Jianmin, the Curator of the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum in Cuiheng Village in Zhongshan regarding Mr. Jianmin’s planned visit to Honolulu in March 2020. Mr. Jianmin desires to come with two or three others to do research about Honolulu’s Sen Yet Young who was called by Dr. Sun Yatsen the “Father of China’s Revolutionary Air Force”.



## **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

Based on our recommendation in our Annual Report submitted to the City Council last year, actions were taken by OED to inform the Mayors of the following cities that the City and County of Honolulu was terminating the sister city relationship with their cities. No formal response to continue these relationships have been received.

1. **BAKU, AZERBAIJAN**
2. **CALI, COLUMBIA**
3. **CARACAS, VENEZUELA**

## **RECOMMENDATION FOR TERMINATION**

Due to lack of activities, OED recommends the termination of sister city relationship with the cities of:

1. **SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO (see page 12)**
2. **BAKU, AZERBAIJAN**
3. **CALI, COLUMBIA**
4. **CARACAS, VENEZUELA**

## **CONTINUE TO MONITOR STATUS FOR POTENTIAL TERMINATION IN 2020**

OED will continue to work with local advocates to monitor the status of the sister city relationship between Honolulu and the following cities:

1. **QINHUANGDAO, CHINA**
2. **ZHANGZHOU, CHINA**
3. **MUMBAI, INDIA**
4. **RABAT, MOROCCO**
5. **MANDALUYONG, PHILIPPINES**
6. **FUNCHAL, MADEIRA, PORTUGAL**
7. **SINTRA, PORTUGAL**